



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Falls Church City Conducts Smoke Testing for Its Sanitary Sewer System Jan. 9-27, 2006**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. –The City of Falls Church inspection crew will survey a portion of the City's sanitary sewer system for approximately three weeks beginning the week of Jan. 9, 2006. The testing will be conducted in the southeast portion of the City from the intersection of East Fairfax Street and Broad Street west to Maple Avenue.

The survey will involve opening manholes in streets and easements. A non-toxic smoke will be blown into the sewer mains to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke that may be seen coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground is NON-TOXIC, HARMLESS, AND CREATES NO HAZARD. The smoke should NOT enter buildings unless the plumbing is defective or drain traps have dried. Residents are asked to pour water into ALL drains prior to testing.

If the smoke enters homes or buildings, correction of defects on private property is the responsibility of the owner. A licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure the corrections are properly made. If smoke is observed, residents may contact a member of the survey crew working in their area for assistance in identifying the source of the smoke. Starting Monday, Jan. 9, door hangers will be distributed to affected homes at least 48 hours prior to the testing as a reminder. These door hangers will also provide an emergency number that can be called for assistance during the testing program.

Some sewer mains and manholes may cross property line easements or other rights of way. Whenever these lines require investigation, the crew will need access to the sewer mains and manholes. Clearing of some easements to facilitate access may be performed.

For more information or if you observe smoke in your home, please contact Charles Moore, the City's consultant with CDM, at 703-642-5500, or contact the City via e-mail at [utilities@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:utilities@fallschurchva.gov).

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